



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 4, 2002

H.R. 2051

A bill to authorize the National Science Foundation to establish regional centers for the purpose of plant genome and gene expression research and development and international research partnerships for the advancement of plant biotechnology in the developing world

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science on March 20, 2002

SUMMARY

H.R. 2051 would expand the scope of the National Science Foundation's (NSF's) existing research on plant genetics and biotechnology by authorizing appropriations for research on special issues and for partnerships with institutions in developing nations. The bill would authorize \$9 million for 2002 and \$13.5 million for each of fiscal years 2003 and 2004 for these new initiatives. These funds would be awarded competitively and would focus on such issues as crop cultivation in extreme climates, innovative plant products, feedstocks for alternative energy production, the ecological effects of genetically engineered plants, and biotechnology in developing countries.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2051 would cost a total of \$34 million over the 2002-2007 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts, so pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 2051 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 2051 is shown in the following table. For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted by spring and that the funding authorized for 2002 will be provided in a supplemental appropriation act. Outlays are projected based on spending trends for similar NSF programs. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 250 (general science, space, and technology).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Plant Genome Spending						
Under Current Law						
Budget Authority ^a	115	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	93	76	24	7	3	1
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	9	14	14	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	b	6	14	10	3	1
Spending Under H.R. 2051						
Authorization Level ^a	124	14	14	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	93	82	38	17	6	2

a. The 2002 level is the amount estimated to be appropriated for plant genome research for 2002.

b. Less than \$500,000.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 2051 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The bill would benefit public universities by authorizing \$36 million in grants, between fiscal year 2002 and 2004, to establish research centers and to cultivate partnerships. Any costs incurred by public universities to participate in this program would be voluntary.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Kathleen Gramp

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Elyse Goldman

Impact on the Private Sector: Jean Talarico

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis